

Message Text

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SUBJECT:SPEECH BY GEORGE MEANY AT THE TWELFTH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF THE AFL-CIO

1. THE FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM MEANY SPEECH FOCUSING ON TRADE. ENTIRE SPEECH IS TOO LONG FOR CABLE. WILL MAIL SPEECH IN ENTIRETY TODAY.

2. BEGIN TEXT. SIMILARLY, A PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT TO FULL EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE SHALLOW IF THE ADMINISTRATION FAILED TO TAKE STRONG ACTION TO PROTECT AMERICAN INDUSTRY FROM CUTTHROAT AND OFTEN ILLEGAL FOREIGN COMPETITION.

3. THE ADMINISTRATION NEGOTIATED WHAT IS CALLED ORDERLY MARKET AGREEMENT FOR COLOR TELEVISION SETS WITH THE JAPANESE, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE TO SAVE THE LAST COLOR TV PLANT IN THE U.S. AND, AS SOON AS THE AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED, THE JAPANESE SHIFTED PRODUCTION OVER TO MICROWAVE
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OVENS AND BEGAN FLOODING THAT U.S. MARKET.

3. WILL AN "ORDERLY MARKET AGREEMENT" FOR MICROWAVE OVENS BE NEGOTIATED-BEFORE OR AFTER-THE LAST U.S. PLANT CLOSES?

AND WHAT INDUSTRY WILL BE NEXT?

4. FOREIGN TRADE IS THE GUERILLA WARFARE OF ECONOMICS -AND RIGHT NOW, THE U.S. ECONOMY IS BEING AMBUSHED.

5. ONE BY ONE, OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES ARE BEING PCIKED OFF-AND, NOW, THE TARGET IS THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

6. AND, WHAT IS MOST GALLING IS THAT THE IMPORTED STEEL IS CHEAPER-NOT BECAUSE U.S. WAGE RATES ARE SO MUCH HIGHER-BUT BECAUSE FOREIGN COUNTRIES SUBSIDIZE THEIR STEEL INDUSTRIES SO THAT THEY CAN UNDERCUT U.S. COMPANIES. OF COURSE WHEN THE U.S. STEEL INDUSTRY IS DESTROYED, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BECOME DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN SOURCES AND WITHOUT A STEEL INDUSTRY OF OUR OWN, THE FOREIGN COUNTRIES COULD CHARGE WHATEVER THEY WANT.

7. OBVIOUSLY, ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL DOESN'T JUST APPLY TO OIL

8. THE UNITED STATES IS PLAYING THE GAME OF FOREIGN TRADE BY A DIFFERENT SET OF RULES THAN MOST OTHER NATIONS. AND, WE ARE LOSING THE GAME BADLY.

9. THE OLD RULES ABOUT FOREIGN TRADE NO LONGER APPLY. IN THIS ERA OF CLOSED ECONOMIES AND MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WHO OPERATE LIKE THE BARBARY PIRATES, THE UNITED STATES STICKS STUBBORNLY TO OLD POLICIES THAT ARE NO LONGER APPROPRIATE OR WORKABLE.
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10. AND, THE SITUATION IS GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE.

11. WHILE BUSINESSES ARE STILL EXPORTING TODAY'S JOBS, THEY ARE ALSO EXPORTING TOMORROW'S JOBS.

12. WHEN A UNITED STATES FIRM SELLS THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY-TECHNOLOGY THAT IS NOT BEING INTRODUCED INTO U.S. PLANTS-THEY ARE EXPORTING THE JOBS THAT TECHNOLOGY COULD PRODUCE RIGHT HERE AT HOME.

13. AMERICA NEEDS A NEW FOREIGN TRADE POLICY. WITHOUT ONE, FULL EMPLOYEMNT WILL NEVER BE ACHIEVED. IMPORTS MUST BE REGULATED. ANTI-DUMPING LAWS MUST BE SWIFTLY ENFORCED. TAX BREAKS THAT ENCOURAGE U.S. FIRMS TO GO ABROAD MUST BE CANCELLED.

14. THE UNITED STATES MUST MAKE IT CLEAR TO EVERY OTHER NATION OF THE WORLD: THE USE OF TARIFF OR NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO BAR U.S. PRODUCTS WILL RESULT IN SWIFT, RETALIATORY ACTION BY THIS GOVERNMENT.

15. WE ARE WILLING TO BUY GOODS FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, BUT UNLESS AMERICA HAS A PRODUCTIVE BASE FOR ITS ECONOMY, THERE WILL BE NO PAYCHECKS TO ENABLE US TO BUY ANYTHING FROM ANYBODY.

16. GOVERNMENT POLICYMAKERS ARE QUICK TO BLAME OIL IMPORTS L FOR THE TRADE DEFICIT. BUT OIL IS ONLY PART OF THE PROBLEM.

17. JAPAN AND WEST GERMANY-BOTH DEPENDENT ON IMPORTED OIL, LIKE THE UNITED STATES-HAVE HUGE TRADE SURPLUSES.

18. IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURED GOODS ROSE BY 2 BILLION DOLLARS-MORE THAN THE RISE IN OIL IMPORTS IN THE FIRST UNCLASSIFIED

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HALF OF 1977. IMPORTS, FROM LOW-WAGE COUNTRIES ARE SOARING-AS A RESULT OF ZERO TARIFFS ON A HOST OF GOODS.

19. FREE TRADE IS A JOKE AND A MYTH. AND, A GOVERNMENT TRADE POLICY PREDICATED ON OLD IDEAS OF "FREE TRADE" IS WORSE THAN A JOKE-IT IS A PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER.

20. THE ANSWER IS FAIR TRADE-DO UNTO OTHERS AS THEY DO TO US-BARRIER FOR BARRIER-CLOSED DOOR FOR CLOSED DOOR. END TEXT. COOPER

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